With many schools using textbooks adopted five or more years ago, social studies teachers are looking elsewhere to find the content they need to create relevant lessons. As a result, content gaps have been identified across multiple areas, including map skills, geography, citizenship/civics, current events and economic systems. Teachers are now using textbooks far less frequently than administrators believe they do, turning instead to alternative—and oftentimes unvetted—resources.

### 4 Ways Your District Can Support Social Studies Teachers

Visit Newsela to find engaging, differentiated social studies content from world-trusted providers.

#### Here's how you can help teachers select the best resources:

1. **Develop a rigorous process for curriculum selection** that relies on sourcing, contextualizing and corroborating to vet all outside and digital resources thoroughly.

2. **Encourage teachers to make this research process transparent and model it for students.**

3. **Rely on resources from reputable and trustworthy providers**, such as The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, The Smithsonian Institution, iCivics, Facing History and Ourselves or Zinn Education Project.

4. **Invest in online resources** that will weather social and cultural shifts.

#### Content gaps:
- Maps
- Geography
- Civics
- Current events
- Economic systems

#### Average textbook adoption: 5+ years

Teachers report using textbooks only 6 days of the month.